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Southern District of New York*

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**FEDERAL JURY IN WHITE PLAINS CONVICTS FORMER PUTNAM COUNTY  
WOMAN IN \$750,000 BANK FRAUD**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that RENATA KUEHL, 35, was convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and two counts of bank fraud after a seven-day trial before United States District Judge STEPHEN C. ROBINSON in White Plains federal court today. According to the evidence at trial:

In November 2006, KUEHL opened bank accounts in the name of Acquality Beverage Distributors at Putnam County National Bank in Putnam Lake, New York, Citizens Bank in Brewster, New York, and Webster Bank in Danbury, Connecticut. Until recently, KUEHL lived in Patterson in Putnam County.

In December 2006, KUEHL opened three more accounts in the name of Acquality Beverage Distributors at Citizens Bank. In March 2006, KUEHL and a co-conspirator opened yet another bank account in the name of MJS Consulting at Webster Bank. Over the course of approximately six months, KUEHL and the co-conspirator deposited third-party checks into all of these accounts. These checks were all drawn from the accounts of American and International businesses, and were payable to individuals or businesses in South America. Each check was endorsed twice for deposit - first with the name of the intended recipient, and second with the signature of KUEHL or her co-conspirator.

Once the funds from the deposited checks would become available, KUEHL and her co-conspirator would withdraw the money from the banks through overseas wire transfers, cash withdrawals, and checks written to themselves. After the money had been withdrawn from the banks by KUEHL and her co-conspirator, many of the deposited checks were returned to the bank due to stop

payments and the fact that the first endorsements on the back of the checks were forgeries.

In total, KUEHL and her co-conspirator deposited 46 third-party checks, totaling more than \$750,000, into these accounts.

After a seven-day trial, in which the jury heard from 20 witnesses and saw hundreds of documents, the jury deliberated this afternoon and returned convictions on all three counts.

KUEHL faces a maximum of 30 years' imprisonment and 5 years' supervised release. Judge ROBINSON set the sentencing for March 17, 2009, at 3 p.m.

Mr. DASSIN praised the work of the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys SARAH R. KRISOFF and JASON P.W. HALPERIN are in charge of the prosecution.

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